



Antarctic Treaty
Consultative Meeting XXXV
HOBART 2012



Outcomes from the 35th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM XXXV)

Hobart, 11 to 20 June 2012



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Background to the ATCM

- Main international forum for discussions on managing and protecting Antarctica
- Held at Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart, 11 to 20 June 2012
- Third time Australia has hosted
- Over 300 delegates from 50 parties, observers and experts
 - first meeting for Malaysia and Pakistan
- Great chance to showcase Australia's deep and enduring commitment to Antarctica and the Antarctic Treaty system





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Australian delegation

- Led by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Australian Antarctic Division
 - led on science, operations, tourism, environment
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Attorney-General's Department
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Tasmanian State Government
- Conservation community





Opening session

- High-level participation
 - Tasmanian Minister the Hon David O'Byrne MP welcomed delegates to Tasmania
 - Federal Environment Minister the Hon Tony Burke MP officially opened the meeting
 - Former Prime Ministers of Australia (Hawke) and France (Rocard) in attendance
- Strong support for
 - Antarctic Treaty system
 - Antarctic science
 - Hobart as Australia's Antarctic gateway





Hosting the meeting

- As hosts, what did we set out to do?
- Critical success factors
 - Venue
 - Facilities
 - Side events
 - Staffing
 - Environmental initiatives
 - Project management
 - Support from AAD
 - Outcomes



Outreach activities

- Key messages
 - active in Antarctica for a century
 - committed to Antarctic presence
 - undertaking cutting-edge science
 - leader in protecting environment
 - strong supporter of Antarctic Treaty system
- Communications plan
 - web stories and videos
 - displays at venue
 - press releases
 - media conference / interviews
 - *Aurora Australis* tour / reception
 - Visits to AAD HQ





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Australian objectives

- Agreement to develop an ATCM strategic work plan
- Strengthen support for the Environmental Protocol
- Enhance understanding of the work of the ATCM
- Enhance protection of the Antarctic environment
- Support measures for safe and sustainable tourism
- Promote the centenary of Mawson's 1911-1914 expedition
- Host an effective and low impact meeting





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Legal and institutional matters

- Agreement to encourage more countries to become party to the Madrid Protocol
- Agreement to a communiqué (key meeting outcomes)
- Agreement to develop an ATCM strategic work plan
- Support for promoting broader Antarctic cooperation
- Detailed talks on preserving Secretariat budget
- Agreement to discuss the exercise of jurisdiction





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Science

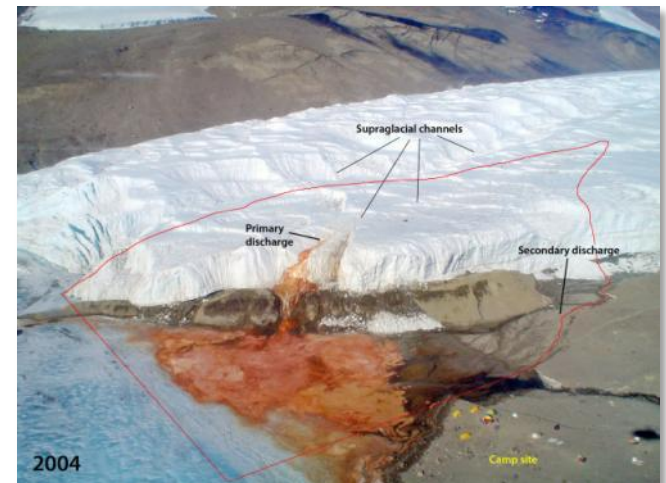
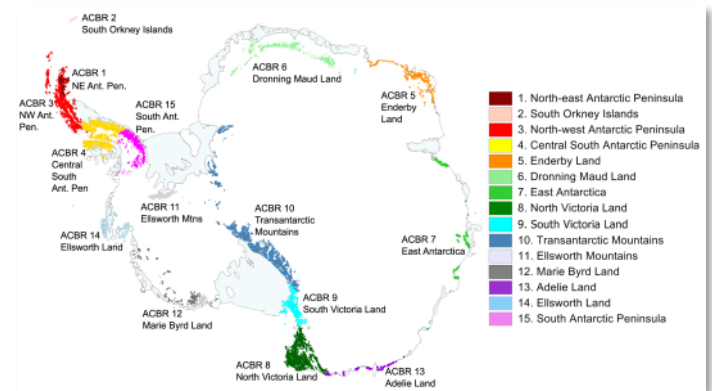
- SCAR lecture on 'Aliens in Antarctica' by Dr Terauds (AAD)
- Discussion of communicating Antarctic climate change to international forums
- Report on penetration of sub-glacial Lake Vostok by Russia
- Final United Kingdom plans to study Lake Ellsworth in 2012/13
- Final plans for new Korean research station 'Jang Bogo', to be completed in 2014
- Completion of new Indian research station 'Bharati'





Environmental protection

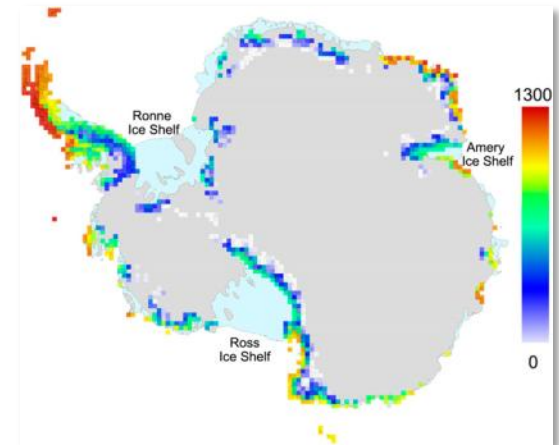
- Area protection
 - Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions endorsed
 - basis for further development of protected areas system
 - inform measures to prevent transfer of species
 - many management plans
- Repair and remediation
 - agreement to develop a Clean-Up manual
 - group established to discuss repair and remediation of environmental damage





Environmental protection

- Non-native species
 - outcomes of 'Aliens in Antarctica' project endorsed, including continent-wide assessment of non-native species risks
 - hydroponics guidelines endorsed
- Tourism
 - support for comprehensive report on environmental aspects and impacts of tourism
 - new / amended visitor site guidelines adopted





Environmental protection

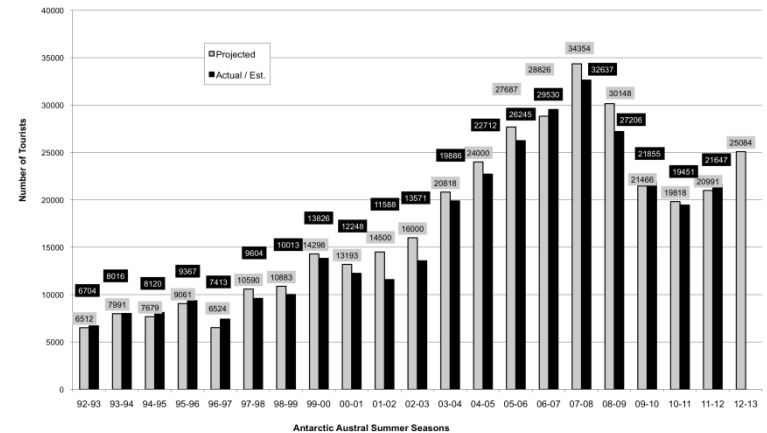
- Support for concept of 'Antarctic Environments Portal'
- Agreement to test methodology for identifying areas of high climate change resilience
- Support for collaboration on remote sensing approaches to environmental monitoring
- Agreement to work on practical guidance for protecting wilderness





Tourism management

- Trends in tourism: decline continues, but turn-around predicted
- CEP tourism study
 - request for advice on monitoring efforts, 'trigger levels', and monitoring pilot study
 - site sensitivity methodology
 - improved information, databases of tourist activities and site characteristics





Tourism management

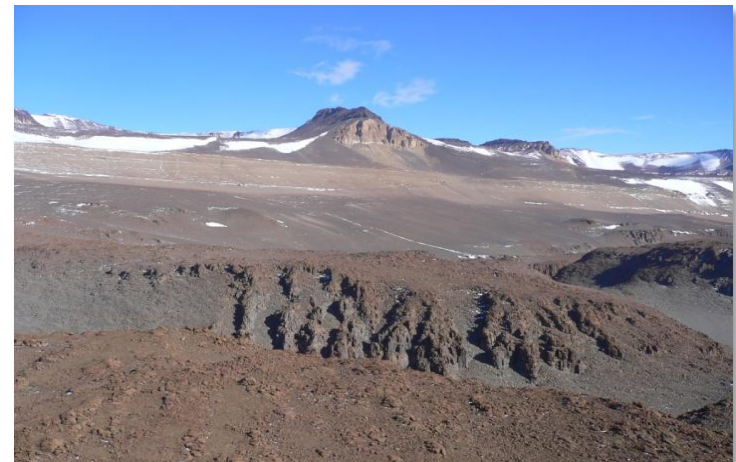
- The meeting adopted
 - guidelines for yacht expeditions
 - guidelines for assessing land-based expeditions
 - checklist for inspection of tourism activities ashore
- Issues under discussion
 - perceptions of expansion and diversification, new site use
 - ‘appropriateness’ of activities
 - permanent facilities, future regulation options
 - managing ‘rogue’ activities, following ‘Wild Vikings / Berserk’ expedition





Operational matters

- Adoption of a Resolution on vessel safety, following Ross Sea fishing vessel incidents
- Plan for specific discussions at ATCM XXXVI on enhancing Search and Rescue coordination, with expert attendees
- Reports of inspections conducted by Russia and the United States



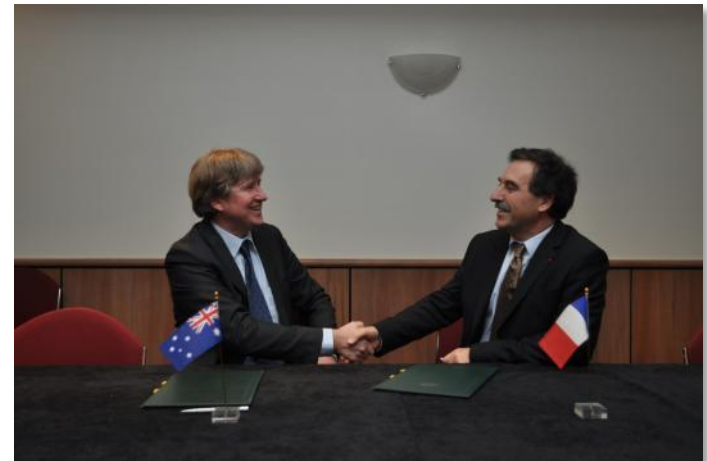


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Agreements on Antarctic cooperation

- AAD signed cooperation agreements with
 - Chinese Arctic and Antarctic Administration
 - French Polar Institute
 - Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute
- Promote bilateral collaboration
 - scientific activities
 - logistics
 - environmental management





Closing remarks

- Australia praised for role as host and for policy initiatives
- Directly contributes to Australia's influence in the Antarctic Treaty system
- Raised profile of AAD and Australian Antarctic program with domestic and international audience
- Great team effort, across government and across AAD
- Next meeting in Belgium, 20-29 May 2013





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